



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Christine Conley, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joseph Baril, Alicia Bauer, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, John A. Espada, Robert M. Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Karen Hatcher, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Meyer, Douglas Monaghan, Kathy Neugent, Scott Newsome, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Shawn Powers, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Richard Semeraro, Bill Smith, Judith Strode, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Fred Turnbull, Patricia Wagner, Richard Waselik, Lori A. Watrous, Ivy R. Williams and Jonathan E. Wilson

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
30 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Heede, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Powers, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strode, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson

Members Absent: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Espada, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Marley, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Scott, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Waselik

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Mayor Rita Schmidt, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2014

*A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Meyer, seconded by Rep. Baril.
The vote on approval of the minutes carried 28 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Heede and Luck.)*

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Reps. Ambroise, DeMatto, Harrell, McDermott, Scott, and Svencer are unable to attend this meeting.

Appointments have been made to the RTM Economic Development Corporation Task Force as follows:

Chairman John Scott, Representatives Joe Baril, John Espada, Karen Hatcher, Matthew Longino, Brandon Marley, Scott Meyer, Jack Sebastian and Mark Svencer; Town Councilors Bob Frink and Heather Somers; City Councilors Bill Jervis and Keith Hedrick.

The Task Force will hold its first meeting on Wednesday February 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Community Room 2 at Town Hall Annex.

The RTM and the Town Council Committee of the Whole will meet jointly to discuss the budget on

Tuesday February 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1 at Town Hall Annex. This is a continuation of the discussion begun at the joint meeting held on September 30, 2013.

The Moderator asked for a volunteer to serve as liaison to the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance is approximately \$11.3 million or 9.4 percent of the FYE 2014 General Fund Adopted Budget; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000 with a proposed transfer of \$14,650 on tonight's agenda; the Capital Reserve balance is approximately \$2.5 million.

Mr. Oefinger added that the Town Council recently took action to increase the minimum Fund Balance from 7.5 percent to 7.75 percent of General Fund expenditures; as in previous years, funds in excess of the minimum will be used to offset next year's expenses.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager's News, including the resignation of Assistant Public Works Director John Carrington and the calendar of upcoming events.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

1. Town & City Council/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee

Rep. Watrous reported on items discussed at the January 8, 2014 meeting, including membership; playing fields; security; Fitch Middle School; shared services; contract negotiations; and the 2014 meeting calendar. Co-chairs were also elected.

2. Parks & Recreation Master Plan Committee

Rep. Neugent reported on the meeting held on January 22, 2014. Officers were elected and the 2014 meeting schedule was approved. Also discussed were the new policy of treating program instructors as Town employees instead of independent contractors; playing fields; and the CIP proposals for FYE 2015. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2014.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky

Chairman Granatosky read the minutes of the meeting held on February 12, 2014. (Minutes are attached to the permanent record.)

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Adams and so voted unanimously.

2013-0298

Professional Services for Recent Bond Authorization Referenda

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM CONTINGENCY TO DEBT SERVICE FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR FAILED BOND AUTHORIZATION REFERENDA

WHEREAS, preparing a bond authorization for referendum requires a lot of work and preparation on staff's part as well as the professional services of the Town's financial advisor and bond counsel, and

WHEREAS, professional services costs associated with long term bonding historically have been included as part of the financing costs of the bonded project with the principal and interest

payments made through the Debt Services expenses, and

WHEREAS, the bond authorization failed at the November 2013 referendum and it is not known when or if another referendum would be held on the Police Station Upgrade or the Flanders Road Utility Upgrades, and

WHEREAS, since no approved projects exist to cover these costs, the payment of these professional services will be incurred by the Debt Service function which will exceed its appropriation without a transfer of funds, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes a transfer of funds in the amount of \$14,650 from the General Fund's Contingency function to the Debt Service function.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Baril, that this matter be Adopted.

Rep. Swindell asked for an explanation of how the charges are calculated.

Mr. Oefinger explained the roles of the financial advisor and the bond attorney in the bonding process.

Finance Director Sal Pandolfo added that the financial advisor bills the Town at the rate of \$200 per hour; the bond attorney bills on a sliding scale depending on the amount to be bonded.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 29 - Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. Heede, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Parker, Rep. Powers, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strobe, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Williams and Rep. Wilson
Opposed: 1 - Rep. Pasqualini Jr.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Semeraro

No meeting; no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

No meeting; no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Svencer

No meeting; no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting; no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Heede

No meeting; no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Ambroise

No meeting; no report.

J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

None.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. was made by Rep. Monaghan, seconded by Rep. Meyer and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Janet L. Downs, Deputy Town Clerk